FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 248

24 December 1984

ARGENTINA

Rapprochement With Soviet Union Criticized [LA PRENSA 20 Dec] B 1
Conscientious Objectors Bill Sent to Congress B 3

BOLIVIA

Senate Approves Amnesty for Political Crimes C 1
Interior Minister: Amnesty Invalid C 1
Ministers Resign, Cabinet Reshuffle Expected C 1
La Paz Police Not Paid, Refuse To Patrol Streets C 2
Police Return To Work C 2

BRAZIL

Aeronautics Director Discusses Agreement With U.S. [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 19 Dec] D 1
Liberal Front Party Officially Launched [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 20 Dec] D 2

CHILE

Curfew in Santiago Lifted for Christmas E 1
Police Reportedly Beat Exiles Trying To Return E 1
Protective Customs Tariffs To Remain in Force E 1

COLOMBIA

Reportage on Army, 19 April Movement Conflict F 1
Commission to Negotiate Issue F 1
Army Tries To Dislodge Camps F 1
Government, Guerrillas Seek Solution F 2
Editorial Opposes Internationalization of Conflict [EL TIEMPO 21 Dec] F 3

URUGUAY

Sanguinetti Discusses Government Policy [Milan L'UNITA 18 Dec] K 1
3 Military Officers, 14 Civilians Released K 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Esquivel Government Sworn In 21 December P 1

COSTA RICA

Monge Denies Planned Presidents Meeting P 1
[LA NACION 17 Dec]
Gutierrez Says Results of Asian Tour Positive P 2
Monge on Communist Plans To Destabilize Country P 2

EL SALVADOR

FMLN-FDR Proposal for Peace Negotiations P 2
[Montevideo EL DIA 12 Dec]

NICARAGUA

MDN Abandons Military Struggle, Reelects Robelo P 6
Rivera Says Misurasata To Continue Struggle P 6
LA PRENSA Issues Communique on Chamorro Barrios P 7

CUBA

Kurkotkin Visit Cut Short by Ustinov's Death Q 1
R. Castro Sees Off Delegation to Ustinov Rites Q 1
Signs Condolence Book Q 1
Pact on Havana Reconstruction Signed With GDR Q 1
South African Communist Leader Arrives in Havana Q 2
Rodriguez on Angolan Troop Withdrawal, Other Topics Q 2
[Paris LE MONDE 21 Dec]
C.R. Rodriguez Speaks at Foreign Ministry Q 4
UNESCO Official Criticizes U.S. Withdrawal Q 5
U.S. Position on Geneva Arms Talks Questioned Q 5
Politburo Member Presides Over CDR Meeting Q 6

CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA

PNP Rejects Communist WPJ's Alliance Efforts S 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

PANAMA

Cardoze Comments on U.S. Relations, Treaty V 1

PERU

Economy Minister Submits 'Unexpected' Resignation V 1

RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION CRITICIZED

PY222059 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Dec 84 pp 1, 4

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Couco: "The Argentine Springboard"]

[Text] The talks that Mr Caputo has held with his counterparts in the so-called River Plate Basin have not been very satisfactory from the viewpoint of the Alfonsin administration's policy in the rest of Latin America. During the talks -- particularly during informal chats -- both Brazil and Uruguay raised a common security issue, which the Argentine Government apparently dislikes. Brazil also rejected one of Mr Caputo's most peculiar ideas, which is undoubtedly one of the pillars of his program: The idea that the continent cannot attain its development without democracy. Summing up: Argentina has begun to isolate itself within its own area of influence. In view of these difficulties, the propaganda campaign of the Alfonsin administration has sought comfort in the fact that Brazil and Uruguay are still ruled by military regimes. As such, these regimes are much more concerned about the security of the region in the face of the subversive pressure that is spreading southward from northern Latin America (Central America, Peru, and Colombia), than they are about economic development, and much less about the development of democracy. However, the fact of the matter is that the installation of democratic governments in Brazil and Uruguay is not likely to bring changes in those countries' stand on the subject. As far as we know, the Uruguayan military and its foreign affairs minister have agreed on the Uruguayan position with Mr Sanguinetti. As for the Brazilians, it is good to recall that Itamaraty's policy has always been the same, whether under constitutional or de facto governments. Moreover, all of the Brazilian presidential candidates, even the leftist ones whom Mr Caputo erroneously believes to be closer to the Buenos Aires position, are equally concerned about the danger hanging over the southern cone. Leftist Brazilian politicians and parties recognize that the Brazilian industrial takeoff occurred under the military regime, although with characteristics and at a "social cost" with which they disagree. This means that even though they do not couple development with dictatorship, they also do not endorse Caputo's theory. In fact, no one would after the experiences of Franco's Spain and of Korea and Taiwan. In general, history has shown that the opposite is true, although it also true -- despite the claims by Marxists and totalitarian fascists -- that democratic regimes have proven to be an excellent support for economic development. Democracy can even be the best way to reach economic development in the absence of other elements and circumstances that we will not analyze here.

Not groundlessly, the main Latin American foreign ministers, and especially the U.S. and the European foreign ministries, have regarded the current Argentine "democratizing" policy at a continental level as an attempt to "neutralize" the region, to facilitate Soviet penetration or at least weaken the U.S. position opposite the Soviet thrusts in the hemisphere. There is speculation over the possibility, a possibility that according to our local sources is quite likely, that Moscow may have "suggested" to the Alfonsin administration that its work in favor of the Latin American "opening" to Soviet plans would have advantages for the Argentine internal situation. During the "process," the USSR became Argentina's main commercial "partner." Buenos Aires obviously wants this status to remain unchanged, particularly now that markets are scarce and that competition on the grain market is very intense. But this may be just one of the advantages, and perhaps the least attractive one. The main benefit would be internal peace, that is, a situation in which Argentine subversive organizations -- all of which are linked with the USSR and Cuba through the umbilical cord of the "world revolution" -- would play a passive military role. In return for this, and in addition to paving the way in the diplomatic area to the Soviets in the regional conflicts that are so bothersome to the United States, such as the Central American issue, Buenos Aires may have to:

1. Become the logistical base of Latin American "revolutionary" groups, and also become the propaganda platform for their ideological projection.

2. Organize a front of Latin American debtor countries opposed to the IMF and, if possible, promote the creation within the OAS of a group of "democratic" countries opposed to the United States.

3. Maintain the South Atlantic conflict, and particularly the Malvinas conflict, thus compelling Latin America to adopt an "anti-imperialist" stand. Simultaneously, this would facilitate the strategic Soviet expansion into a zone to which it had no access before.

In this manner, Argentina would act in this part of the world as the Socialist Greek Government has acted in Europe and in the Middle East. In fact, Argentina has already begun acting like this (see 13 November issue of LA PRENSA). The Alfonsin administration has established rather special relations with the Greek Government, as is proven by, among other things, the upcoming visits that the administration's leadership will pay to Athens, or some indirect contacts that Athens and Buenos Aires may have had in connection with the future of some Argentine terrorist leaders. This barter policy, that is, no terrorist actions in Argentina and "war" abroad, is reportedly supported or "tolerated" by many European socialist democracies, which cannot put the United States under direct pressure in return for commercial concessions in Africa and Asia, because of the financial crisis and because of the excessive Soviet military pressure in Europe and in other spots that are sensitive for the EEC. Thus, those socialist democracies are trying to continue pressuring the United States through local governments, such as that of Mr Alfonsin.

Obviously, we do not know whether Buenos Aires and Moscow have at any time explicitly discussed this deal. But this is not very important, because this type of thing does not require too many words. Nevertheless, we are aware of two things: 1) A year ago the idea that some kind of compromise with the USSR or estrangement with the United States would paralyze subversion inside Argentina was one of the main pillars of the foreign policy being formulated by the leaders of the Alfonsin-led faction, including Mr Caputo, with whom we talked several times before we traveled to Nicaragua and before we "disclosed" his code; 2) the credits granted to Nicaragua and Cuba, the creation of the "debtors club," the speeches against banks and against the "infamous" consultants, the noticeable increase in drug trafficking in our country, the "casual" infiltration of the Shining Path into northern Argentina, the pro-Sandinist campaign in Argentina, the failure in Bern, the Puerto Madryn affair, the international "coffee" brigade, and so forth, may have all happened by chance. Yet these events that have happened by chance, so to speak, perfectly well match Soviet requirements or what the Soviets expect in return for an Argentina in "peace."

The same thing can be said of other events that are not very well known but that are as important or even more important than the ones we mentioned before. For example: In Uruguay some days ago, the military and Mr Sanguinetti's advisers expressed serious concern over the possibility that some 300 members of the Tupamaro movement and of other Uruguayan leftist groups may arrive in Buenos Aires, or that they may have already arrived, and that they may cross the River Plate into Uruguay, or that they may have already crossed it. The Uruguayan parties and the military may have linked this with Buenos Aires' neglect of the joint security and antisubversive measures in the River Plate Basin. Another example: Mr Campero [secretary of foreign trade] reportedly has a project, which is in a very advanced stage, under which Argentina would create several "joint" companies, and not only with Cuba or with openly "socialist" regimes but also with Latin American and European countries. The projection of such companies within the context of the "platform" of "democratic" Argentina may be broader or different from a merely commercial promotion.

Not long ago, after the surprising decision to import 500,000 tons of Soviet crude oil, Mr Storani [secretary of energy] himself announced his intention to create joint companies in the oil sector, companies that will even engage in prospecting for oil resources, although it is not yet known how nor with whom (after the signing of the agreement with Shell he said that he will no longer sign contracts involving risks). The gradual resumption of Movement of the Revolutionary Left activities in Argentina, though not widely known, is no secret either. In addition, the implementation of the agreement signed between the Soviet fishing authorities and the North Basin Shipyards, under the Defense Ministry's jurisdiction, will begin in a few days. Under the terms of this agreement, Soviet ships operating in the South Atlantic can change crews in Buenos Aires. A group of 50 Soviet experts with 3-month residence permits that may be extended for 3 more months will stay here on a more or less permanent basis. The group will be in charge of cleaning and repairing the ships in dry dock.

Well, the bright history of Soviet strategy is full of situations like the ones described here, ranging from "pacifying" arrangements in the area of subversion in return for logistical support bases and ideological indoctrination bases on a continental level, to innocent joint companies, tourism, cultural exchange, and even almost insignificant commercial "warnings." Even though they are very good business for Moscow, such warnings may be aimed at giving an export-import facade to the purely political or geopolitical moves (incidentally, we have just promised to increase our imports from the USSR by $100 million) The use of these tools is not new if we look into the near past. If the military regime ever had what Mr Alfonsin calls an "essential ally," it was precisely the USSR and its local Communist Party. Summing up, just as the financial program of Mr Grinspun is not too different from the one implemented by the "financial fatherland," the same thing is very likely to happen with the financial program involving the USSR, despite the fact that the Argentine advisers in Central America may have jumped sides.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS BILL SENT TO CONGRESS

PY221146 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Dec (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin has sent to Congress a bill by which any Argentine citizen may be exempted from military service if it is incompatible with a person's firm and clear moral or religious convictions.

It was also reported that those who will be exempted from military service will have to undertake a social task which will be jointly organized by the Public Health, Social Action, and Defense Ministries.

According to the bill, the interested person or his legal representative will have to present his request for exemption to a court which will proceed with the case according to law.

The bill is inspired by deep humanist and democratic beliefs with the conviction that, if approved, it will bring the benefits of the state of law, that is, respect for the individual, or for a group of citizens who object to military service because of moral or religious convictions.

The executive branch believes that if the fulfillment of a specific duty does not contribute to preserving other people's rights, there is no reason to oblige someone that considers such duty morally wrong to carry it out.

SENATE APPROVES AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL CRIMES

PY211920 Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 21 Dec (AFP) -- It was reported in La Paz today that the Bolivian Senate, by virtue of the power vested in it by the national Constitution, approved a general amnesty for all those imprisoned and in exile for politically-motivated crimes. This amnesty especially favors the military officers and politicians who on 30 June this year kidnapped for 8 hours Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo in an aborted attempt to overthrow his regime.

The main beneficiaries of the amnesty are Colonel Orlando Saravia Ortuno, the leader of the aborted attempt, who has been discharged from the Armed Forces, and his accomplices, five military and police officers who are currently in Spain. The five men whom Saravia recruited to guard the kidnapped president, who were later captured and imprisoned in La Paz, could also be released.

It is not known, on the other hand, whether the Senate's decision will favor seven alleged leftist guerrillas captured in Luribay (180 km southeast of La Paz) who were sentenced by a military court to serve between 4 and 7 years in prison. Siles Zuazo pardoned the guerrillas but the military court opposed this decision, claiming that the crimes committed by the guerrillas, among whom are two Chileans, were military, not political.

The amnesty will also benefit a group of men who served under General Garcia Meza's administration and are currently in prison. The decision of the Senate was announced by Luis Pelaez Rioja, leader of a dissident faction of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left.

Interior Minister: Amnesty Invalid

PY221400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 21 Dec (AFP) -- Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata told AFP here today that the "political amnesty approved by the national Senate yesterday is unconstitutional." The interior minister explained that this measure, which was approved by the Senate's conservative majority, is aimed at benefiting the murders of Jesuit priest Luis Espinal and of Socialist Deputy Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, as well as eight leaders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR].

These crimes were committed during the 1980-82 period by paramilitary individuals who are now in prison. It was recalled that during the mentioned period the Bolivian democratic process had been interrupted. The amnesty will also benefit those persons who abducted President Hernan Siles Zuazo for 8 hours and unsuccessfully tried to oust him on 30 June 1984. Alvarez Plata maintains that the Senate should have approved an amnesty draft which then should have been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, but since this procedure was not followed the amnesty is not valid.

MINISTERS RESIGN, CABINET RESHUFFLE EXPECTED

PY211349 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] According to statements made by Social Security and Public Health Minister Javier Torres Goitia, cabinet members tendered their resignations to the president of the nation on 15 December.

Consequently, he said that a decision by the president regarding the make up of his cabinet is expected.

It is expected that Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez and Planning and Coordination Minister Rene Fernandez will return quickly to the country so the president can reshuffle his cabinet. Torres Goitia added that confirmations are not ruled out, but that everything depends on the president.

LA PAZ POLICE NOT PAID, REFUSE TO PATROL STREETS

PY220140 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Members of the La Paz Police Regiment No 1 have been (?confined) to barracks. Members of this police regiment refuse to patrol La Paz streets because they have not been paid their salaries or a Christmas bonus. Moreover, the policemen have undertaken negotiations to improve their salaries, but so far their negotiations have not been successful.

Police Return to Work

PY221815 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The stoppage observed by the Bolivan Police Forces -- by the La Paz Police Regiment No 1 in particular -- was lifted this morning when the Central Bank of Bolivia released the necessary funds to pay their salaries. This information was given to Panamericana by Jaime Castro, financial manager of the Central Bank.

Panamericana was informed that the situation within the Bolivian Police Forces now is normal. This statement was made by Jose Velez, aide-de-camp of the Bolivian Police Forces, who denied that a rebellion had taken place inside the premises of Police Regiment No 1. This report was termed mere speculation.

[Begin Velez recording] The situation within the Bolivian Police Forces is completely normal, and they are fulfilling their duties throughout La Paz. Their pay slips are being distributed in all the police units and the rumors of a rebellion are completely false. [end recording]

AERONAUTICS DIRECTOR DISCUSSES AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

PY212145 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Dec 84 p 2

[Interview with Aeronautics Engineering Director Air Force Major General Tercio Pacitti by correspondent Helio Contreiras on 18 December in Rio de Janeiro]

[Excerpt] [Contreiras] What does the agreement recently signed between the Brazilian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force represent for Brazil?

[Pacitti] As any agreement, this is just an instrument that will have to be used well in order to be successful. Only time will tell if it will be a success. Our hopes that it will have good results are very high, because the Aeronautical Technological Institute [ITA] has already had intensive cooperation with the United States on two previous occasions: one during the foundation of ITA with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1950, and later with the University of Michigan in 1960.

The agreement between the Aeronautics Ministry of Brazil and the U.S. Air Force, which has recently been signed by Aeronautics Joint Staff Chief Brigadier General Bertolino Goncalves Netto, provides for the exchange of professors, scientists, and engineers from the institutions within their jurisdiction. This is the first agreement of this kind that the USAF has signed with a South American country. It seems to me that USAF already has agreements with the FRG, Japan, and Israel.

[Contreiras] What can really come out of the agreement in concrete terms?

[Pacitti] Concrete results will only be seen in the long term, say, 5, 10, or 15 years. On the Brazilian side, the agreement is at first intended to train a group of scientists and engineers capable of constituting a group that can go on their own with development of new and still incipient technological sectors in the Aeronautics Ministry and in Brazil. Brazilian professors, scientists, and students will have the opportunity to work with their U.S. colleagues who are pioneering new frontiers of knowledge.

Our professors and scientists will in turn recycle the knowledge acquired by studying and investigating, say during sabbatical years, in teaching and research centers of the USAF. For the scientists who want to move ahead it is indispensable to have communication with his colleagues of any part of the world.

[Contreiras] Which areas will receive the benefits?

[Pacitti] The greatest interest on the Brazilian side is centered on three new areas of technology that are developing in Brazil and are of great interest for the Airspace Technical Center, (CTA), the airspace industry, and for the Aeronautics Ministry's largest projects.

These are the areas: 1) Computer engineering for projects of atmosphere-escaping airspace vehicles [veiculos evetores aerospaciais] with a strong demand for specifications and quality standards necessary for space operations, including military operations; 2) material science and engineering, referring to advanced airspace materials, new fibers, light and high resistence composites, high heat resistant ceramics, nonmetals, and so on; and 3) airspace engineering and science, that is, propulsion, energy conversion, instrumentation and control of vehicles and systems, and airspace structures.

We need highly qualified and experienced people, not just a few but many of them to work on projects for the Aeronautics Ministry. Remember that we have to carry out projects like the VSL (Satellite Launching Vehicle), the AMX (the integration of this plane's diverse subsystems, a special software for its "intelligence") the T-27 simulator, the new Alcantara launching pad, the Dacta systems to cover defense and control needs of our airspace.

[Contreiras] General, do you believe that the United States will transfer advanced airspace technology to Brazil?

[Pacitti] It is not likely that a country would transfer advanced technology, particularly if it is considered to be of a strategic nature. This is so because that technology demanded much effort, work, dedication, and resources invested in education, research and development. To have that technology, Brazil will have to do the same. What would happen if we were not prepared to receive this technology? This is why we would prepare the way by training highly qualified personnel in advanced technology in the three areas mentioned before. Through appropriate education and training directed at the objective we want to attain, in time we will have the conditions to create, receive, adapt, and work in the new high technology sectors.

LIBERAL FRONT PARTY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

PY211710 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Dec 84 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- The Liberal Front Party was officially launched on 19 December with a promise of "eternal gratitude" from candidate Tancredo Neves, who was accompanied by running mate Jose Sarney during the ceremony. The objective of the party is "to realize the people's aspirations and to promote the changes that society wants." Vice President Aureliano Chaves, who presided over the ceremony, outlined the new doctrine of liberalism that the party will adopt. He was interrupted many times by the more than 800 people crowded in the session room of the Chamber of Deputies. The two presidential candidates, governors, jurist Sobral Pinto, and representatives of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party [PMDB], the Democratic Labor Party [PDI], and the Brazilian Labor Party [PTB] were sitting by Aureliano's side. By the end of the day, the manifesto creating the new party had already been signed by 63 federal deputies, 11 senators, and by more than 500 mayors, councilmen, politicians holding no public posts, and other state and municipal political leaders. Four governors attended the ceremony: Gonzaga Mota of Ceara; Jose Agripino of Rio Grande do Norte, who had already signed the document; Roberto Magalhaes of Pernambuco, who signed it yesterday; and Luis Rocha of Maranhao, who will sign it in January.

CURFEW IN SANTIAGO LIFTED FOR CHRISTMAS

PY240200 Paris AFP in Spanish 0129 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 24 Dec (AFP) -- An official communique was released today stating that the military government has lifted the curfew in Santiago on Christmas Eve in view of the Christmas festivities. The curfew which restricts traffic in the Chilean capital has been in force since 6 November this year covering the period between 0100 and 0500 in the morning. On that date General Augusto Pinochet's regime imposed the state of siege.

However, an edict issued by the Santiago military commander today stated that "on the occasion of Christmas festivities the curfew will be lifted on the night of the 24 and morning of 25 December.

POLICE REPORTEDLY BEAT EXILES TRYING TO RETURN

PY211415 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1132 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Mendoza, 21 Dec (NA) -- Most of the Chilean exiles who yesterday unsuccessfully tried to return to their fatherland were attacked and injured by the Chilean policemen at the Los Libertadores customs house, which is located at a height of 3,500 meters, sources close to the Chilean exiles have reported. As a result of the repression, Leoncio Saavedra reportedly has a broken arm; Jaime Gazmuri has bruises on his face; and former Minister Mireya Baltra's clothes were torn.

The exiles are staying at the border village of Las Cuevas and are being tended to by members of the Argentine police and border police.

PROTECTIVE CUSTOMS TARIFFS TO REMAIN IN FORCE

PY221248 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] The government will maintain the additional customs tariffs which were in force until the peso devaluation on 17 September. This statement was made by Finance Minister Luis Escobar Cerda during a meeting with textile manufacturers. The minister said that if there are proven cases of unfair competition from imported products affecting local production, he will ask for authorization to apply customs tariffs of over 35 percent for such goods. He told the manufacturers that they should not ask for preferential treatment, because this would lead to an arbitrary system to which he was opposed.

REPORTAGE ON ARMY, 19 APRIL MOVEMENT CONFLICT

Commission to Negotiate Issue

PA211945 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Army has advanced towards the fortifications established by the 19 April Movement [M-19] on San Pablo hill, near Corinto, and dislodged 50 guerrillas who were inside a tunnel. The guerrillas fled into the nearby mountains.

Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe warned that military forces will not withdraw from the zone. The minister said that only the Armed Forces have the right to hold military positions. In addition, Gen Vega criticized the way the M-19 has been complying with the peace agreement, stating that the guerrillas are not being serious in their negotiations with the government.

A commission will travel to the area today to try to reach an agreement between the two sides. The commission is made up of former Labor Minister Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez Mosquera, Conservative Senator J. Emilio Valderrama, M-19 member Vera Grube, Peace Commission member Carlos Morales, and another government official.

Today, in Bogota, the Cease-Fire Verification and Peace Commission and the M-19 will try to reach an agreement with the government so as to end the Corinto conflict. Some of the options that will be discussed are: The M-19's unconditional withdrawal from the area; authorization of the M-19 presence in the area provided the guerrillas do not engage in subversive actions; or relocation of the guerrilla column to another site, as was done on a previous occasion with a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] column.

Army Tries to Dislodge Camps

PA220110 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2215 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota, 21 Dec (EFE) -- While the media and Acting Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe himself are saying that the military offensive to dislodge the 19 April Movement [M-19] camps will continue, members of this guerrilla organization have stated that they will remain where they are.

The M-19 camps, located high in the central mountain range, near Corinto, in the southwestern Department of Cauca, are "an independent republic," Minister Vega Uribe charged on Monday.

The acting defense minister today confirmed that the Army will continue its military offensive to dislodge the M-19 guerrillas from the region and added that "they are the ones breaking the agreed-on truce."

The M-19, the most recently formed and most famous guerrilla group in Colombia that for the past 14 years has been fighting in the cities and the country, signed a truce and a cease-fire agreement with President Belisario Betancur's government on 24 August in the town of Corinto, today the theater of these confrontations.

General Vega Uribe said that the confrontations began last week when a patrol of the Army's 3d Division, stationed in Cali, 60 km north of Corinto, was attacked by the M-19.

"While pursuing the guerrilla group we discovered that the region had been mined with powerful explosive charges, and we also discovered that the M-19 had camps in Los Altos de San Pablo," General Vega Uribe said.

Following the initial confrontations, Commander Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez, chief of the guerrilla forces in the area (estimated at some 500 men), charged that "the Army, with more than 8,000 troops, was harrassing the M-19."

According to a reporter for CROMOS, a magazine published in Bogota, who spoke with Pizarro Leon-Gomez this morning, the guerrilla chief has warned that "the M-19 will not leave the region. Until now we have been on the defensive, and the Army is provoking us to adopt an offensive position."

The armed confrontations of the past 2 days have been described as "the most serious since the signing of the truce and the cease-fire agreement, and Colombia's process of pacification is hanging by a thread," Carlos Morales, a member of the Verification Commission that visited the mountains of Corinto, said.

General Vega Uribe said today that the guerrillas could voluntarily, and without fear of being attacked, abandon Los Altos de San Pablo in Corinto so long as they "leave the mountains without weapons, uniforms, and walking before the troops."

"This is another gesture of the Armed Forces' magnanimity in the peace process," the acting defense minister added. General Vega Uribe's offer to the M-19 was accompanied by a threat to the guerrillas: "The troops will continue relentlessly dislodging you if you do not accept our offer."

A "civilian commission," formed by former Labor Minister Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez Mosquera, members of the Red Cross and of the Peace and Verification Commission, and M-19 leader Vera Grabe, have left Bogota for the mountains of Corinto. The commission will analyze the situation and search for a solution to the conflict.

Antonio Navarro Wolff told EFE that the dislodging of the guerrillas by the Armed Forces represents "an imminent danger of a break in the truce reached with the government." Navarro Wolff, of the M-19's superior command, said that "we have the best will for peace, but we cannot talk if the military continues to impose its position."

Government, Guerrillas Seek Solution

PA230438 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2309 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Bogota, 22 Dec (EFE) -- Today, determined to put an end to the armed clashes between the 19 April Movement, M-19, and the Army in Corinto, the Colombian Government urgently met in Bogota with representatives of the guerrilla organization. Meanwhile, a civilian committee has been sent to Corinto to try to negotiate a cease-fire.

In Bogota, Government Minister Jaime Castro Castro, Peace Commission President John Agudelo Rios, and M-19 representatives led by Antonio Navarro Wolff, were trying today to find a way to end the situation.

The civilian committee comprised of former Labor Minister Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez Mosquera, Peace Commission member Carlos Morales, members of the Red Cross, and Vera Grabe, an M-19 leader, are meeting with the military commands in the region of Corinto. "We are trying to reach an agreement to cease hostilities," a peace commission spokesman said.

In Cali, 60 km north of Corinto, a member of the Red Cross said that the Red Cross was trying to get to the combat zone to evacuate the wounded from both sides for humanitarian reasons. The exact number of wounded was not available.

Peace commission President Agudelo Rios said in Bogota, "It is a very delicate moment for the peace process. At the same time, guerrillas leader Navarro Wolff accused the Army of starting the armed clashes and insisted that the M-19 has not broken the truce and remains on the defensive.

EDITORIAL OPPOSES INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CONFLICT

PA231944 Bogota El TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Dec 84 p 4 A

[Editorial: "The Internationalization"]

[Text] Those who wrote the letter that the M-19 sent to the president of Mexico and the prime minister of Spain did not do President Belisario Betancur a favor. No one ignores the obsessive generosity of the Colombian head of state regarding peace. He, like no other chief of state in our history, has made concessions so important that some have considered them excessive. However, these concessions have always been aimed at overcoming obstacles to peace. Amnesty without hindrances, truces, talks, and commissions charged with implementing his policies based on agreements with the subversive guerrillas -- Dr Betancur placed all of this in motion with a passion that has been the source of arguments but that has never been put in doubt. Perhaps, his most audacious gesture was his meetings abroad with rebel leaders. This gesture had precedent neither in Colombia nor in any other country.

Many people saw in this the risk of giving the rebels an importance they did not gain as a result of armed confrontation, and of giving to an internal conflict, which has never been a civil war, an international level that guerrillas heartily seek once their armed struggle to conquer power has reached a certain point. This "dirty move" -- this is how we must describe it -- against President Betancur is the kickback to a generous, broad policy. By asking Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to intervene to prevent a disruption of the truce in Colombia, an effort is being made to ignore the fact that our president is more than capable of putting what has happened in the Corinto region of Cauca on the right course. The guerrillas know what they want, regardless of what some people may imagine. This international presentation serves them now, and what is worse, it will serve them in the future. Soon we will be reading reports from naive foreign correspondents protesting the "atrocities" committed by Colombian soldiers and noting that President Betancur whose prestige abroad remains very high, is incapable of controlling the reactionary forces who are trying to eliminate the guerrillas by force.

This is why we believe that the request to foreign governments to carry out an indirect intervention in problems that concern only the Colombian people is unjust. We believe that if it was done in good faith the request was a mistake; however, if the request was sent by aware people it was an evil action. Let's hope that these abusive letters to Mexico City and Madrid will receive an appropriate response and that the addressees, who know and respect President Betancur especially because of his international efforts against intervention and his ardent struggle for peace, will return the impertinent M-19 letter unopened. In any event this incident has served to show how dangerous it is to leave our boundaries to discuss Colombian problems, thus creating the possibility for the "internationalization" of a conflict that is taking place in our territory and that must be solved only by Colombians without anyone abroad having reason to meddle in our affairs. This episode, which involves arguments for excusing greater foreign interventions in the future, makes us think about the struggle for peace. Such interventions would be deadly for a quiet national coexistence.

SANGUINETTI DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT POLICY

PM200925 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 18 Dec 84 pp 1, 16

[Interview with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti by Maria Giovanna Maglie in Montevideo -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Montevideo -- [Maglie] Let us talk about the future straight away, because we do not have much time. Is there a possibility of forming a national unity government as a result of a Colorado Party agreement with the two other parties -- the Blanco Party and Broad Front?

[Sanguinetti] We are working to form a government which is the result of consultation and which reflects that consultation. If the four parties -- the Colorado Party, the Blanco Party, the Broad Front, and the Civic Union -- succeed in drawing up a platform which encompasses areas of agreement, such a government will be possible. As I see it, the important thing is that the next government should not be a one-party government. And I want this partly because we do not have an absolute majority in parliament, just 38 percent of the votes. National unity will, however, enable us to achieve the main objectives, starting with the consolidation of institutions, which should start on 1 March. But there is something else I must say. We Uruguayans have always had great pride in our democracy, we have always believed that putschism is a phenomenon which does not apply to us. There was a coup and the resulting government lasted 11 years. Undoubtedly, it was the outcome of the excessive ambition of a section of the military, but also of the weaknesses of democracy which paved the way for culmination of that ambition.

[Maglie] How can democracy be strengthened?

[Sanguinetti] Many of us now think that systematic opposition, or a situation of excessively fierce opposition between the parties will weaken this new-found democracy. We believe in the politics of consultation, and we were already channeling all our efforts into it before the elections, when we did not know the result. A statement was issued on 16 December in which the four candidates assessed the points on which they agree and list the disagreements which naturally exist.

[Maglie] The main points of disagreement, judging from what the leaders of the other parties have said, are the introduction of a law providing amnesty for all political prisoners and an economic policy which will steer Uruguay out of its present terrible crisis. From the workers we have gained the impression that the president-elect is not very popular. A tough line is expected on income policy, and there is surprise and controversy over the proposal to further increase the foreign debt which already totals $5.2 billion and the proposal not to change private banks, of which there are a great many. These are not minor disagreements....

[Sanguinetti] First, let us clear up the controversy on the amnesty. We said that Uruguay should undertake a program of national pacification and that this pacification presupposes an amnesty law. This law should cover all those arrested after 1973 for exclusively political reasons. I can give you the example of a trade union leader, a communist activist arrested and tortured simply because the Communist Party had been banned by the regime. In addition, all exiles must be able to return to the country and be received with assurances and understanding. However, in my view, a law cannot include those who were members of guerrilla organizations and who used violence to try to destroy the democratic institutions before 1973. At least not those who are guilty of causing bloodshed. For such people we can talk of an act of generosity by society, which might lead to a pardon, but it will not be forgotten.

[Maglie] There are at least 500 prisoners in the prisons who are exhausted by ill-treatment, whose lives are in jeopardy, and who have been living in desperate conditions for 13 or 14 years. What has this to do with the rebirth of a democratic state, with its civilized traditions which establish a maximum sentence of 30 years?

[Sanguinetti] As from 1 March there will be a democratic government and no one will be ill-treated any longer, and the methods of a civilized state will be applied to all. I guarantee this.

[Maglie] What about economic issues?

[Sanguinetti] If we launch immediately into restoring the real value of income, we will simply increase unemployment. Instead, we must combat unemployment, contain the fall in wages, and then gradually move toward restoring their value. We cannot enter a spiral of hyper-inflation, as is happening in Argentina, because it is always the workers who pay when there is hyper-inflation. Priority will be given to ending inflation and, at the same time, to aim at increasing exports, because this is the only way to bring about economic recovery. The foreign debt cannot be ignored or disowned. Instead, we must reverse the trend. The banks are important in this effort, and we must have a bank which serves the national interests, protecting and strengthening the state banks and controlling and regulating the private banks through the Central Bank. We cannot afford to spend money buying structures just to have them under the state's control. France, which nationalized the banks, spent money and lost capital. Spain, on the other hand, has maintained a mixed structure, and this has not made anyone accuse Felipe Gonzalez of conservatism.

[Maglie] In many countries that have emerged from dictatorship -- Argentina, for instance -- major problems are encountered in ensuring that justice is done in connection with crimes committed by the military. Furthermore, the repressive apparatus often remains intact. This is not an important issue in Uruguay, where there are 23 members of the Armed Forces for every 1,000 inhabitants.

[Sanguinetti] The question of the military will be judged according to the rules of the constitutional state, in the sense that everything having to do with military crimes will be tried by the military courts and everything to do with common crime will be tried by the civil courts. We must aim at a qualitative and quantitative reform of the Armed Forces. In recent years, they have increased their personnel from 35,000 to 68,000 -- an option that cannot be canceled out at a stroke by throwing onto the streets 30,000 youngsters who work as soldiers or policemen as they would work at any other job. The really important thing is to restore the mechanism for subordinating the military to the civilian government.

[Maglie] The Broad Front, which also embraces the still-proscribed communists, is a real novelty on the Uruguayan political scene, dominated by the classic two-party system of the Blanco and Colorado Parties. What effect could the new coalition have in the immediate future?

[Sanguinetti] This new force, which formed in 1971 at the time of the elections prior to the coup, is certainly a factor of great importance in our history. They secured almost 22 percent of the vote and have an exceptional leader in General Liber Seregni. I believe that the Front embodies many ideological contradictions, because it includes people with contradictory stances and doctrines, but it is a new phenomenon that has earned a position of great respect in the country.

3 MILITARY OFFICERS, 14 CIVILIANS RELEASED

PY222245 Paris AFP in Spanish 2146 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Dec (AFP) -- It was today announced in Montevideo that three military officers, a major and two lieutenants, who have been imprisoned since 1976 on charges of having links with subversion, have been released by the Uruguayan military courts. They are Major Juan Rodriguez and Lieutenants Saverio Ynasella and Guillermo Castelgrande, who were being held at the Punta Carretas Prison and at the Central Prison of the Montevideo police. Fourteen civilians were also released.

The decision by the military courts was made within the context of the revision of cases [visitas de causa], which should result in the release of some 200 political prisoners out of the 468 who, according to the political parties, were imprisoned in 1972, 1973, and 1976.

The economically active sectors of the country have asked President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti to decree a general, unconditional amnesty for the political prisoners. Sanguinetti has asked Adela Reta, a well-known lawyer, to study the matter and submit a report to him on the feasibility of an amnesty.

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL GOVERNMENT SWORN IN 21 DECEMBER

FL220030 Bridgetown CANA in English 2240 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Dec 21, CANA -- A new Belize Government was sworn in today under Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel, who led his United Democratic Party (UDP) to a landslide win in last Friday's general elections.

At the ceremonial opening of Belize's fifth National Assembly, Governor General Dame Minita Gordon, in the traditional speech from the throne, said the new administration would move speedily to rectify the serious socio-economic problems facing this Central American state of 150,000 people. Said the governor general: The government, fully aware of the disastrous state of the economy, will endeavour to implement as speedily as possible, at the same time recognising the magnitude of the problems, the stimulation of economic growth and moving of the nation to increase employment and prosperity. Government recognises that this is a most important goal in keeping with the economic plan for which the people gave us a mandate.

The UDP unseated the People's United Party (PUP) of Prime Minister George Price, securing 21 of the 28 seats in the expanded parliament. The PUP, which led this former British colony to independence in 1981, had been in power since 1964.

At today's ceremony, educator Carlos Castilho was named as the new speaker of the House of Representatives. Onesimo Pech another of the UDP's successful candidates, will serve as deputy speaker. Today was a public holiday to celebrate the UDP victory at the polls.

COSTA RICA

MONGE DENIES PLANNED PRESIDENTS MEETING

PA220402 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 17 Dec 84 p 8 A

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has ruled out the possibility of a meeting in January involving Central American leaders as reported by the media. According to those sources, the heads of states of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica would be meeting in Liberia.

Newsman Armando Vargas Araya, information and communications minister, said that neither the Presidency of the Republic nor the government had embraced such an initiative nor had they been approached by anyone regarding the organizing of such a meeting. The official added: "That report is false, in fact there have been other reports before and one international news agency has even speculated about a meeting in Tegucigalpa or El Salvador."

Vargas Araya added that should a meeting in Costa Rica prove to be in the interests of the three countries, the president of the Republic and the people would be ready to fraternally welcome the heads of state of friendly nations. Vargas Araya concluded by saying: "Such a possibility would be positively considered and would of course be in the best interest of strengthening ties among democratic governments."

Meanwhile, it was announced that Monge will travel to David in January where he will meet Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta. During their meeting, the two presidents will discuss and implement measures concerning a joint development project for the border region.

GUTIERREZ SAYS RESULTS OF ASIAN TOUR POSITIVE

PA232219 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that the results of the tour of Japan, the Republic of China and ROK are positive, both in the political and economic aspects, because we managed to obtain additional aid.

With the Japanese Government, we made the final arrangements for the funds to finance port projects, and technical assistance programs were also expanded. The political and economic results of our visit to the Republic of China and ROK were also positive and satisfactory, because we reached agreements that will benefit the country in various fields, Gutierrez noted.

MONGE ON COMMUNIST PLANS TO DESTABILIZE COUNTRY

PA232248 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has said that the Costa Rican people will not support extremists groups who as in 1982, 1983, and 1984 try to carry out destabilizing actions. He added: There is clear evidence that the communist groups are planning various actions, which include inciting peasants to invade land, participate in protest marches, and demand housing, in an effort to improve their faded image as a result of the failure of the banana workers' strike.

The government has specific information on the activities carried out by the communist groups in various parts of the country, organizing peasants and families in poverty-stricken regions, by offering them help in obtaining land and housing. The government spokesman noted that the strategy used by the communist leaders is to tell the peasants that the only way they can satisfy their needs is by pressuring the government. However, the only goal sought by these groups is political, President Monge stressed.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN-FDR PROPOSAL FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

PY221912 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 12 Dec 84 p 3

["Exclusive" to EL DIA by Magdalena Gerona]

[Text] At the same time in which Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte stated (on 8 December) in Miami that the Salvadoran guerrillas had hardened their position during the second round of negotiations, the FMLN and the FDR submitted to us from their offices in San Jose, Costa Rica, a full report of the conditions they have established to achieve complete pacification of the country. We had requested this information on the occasion of our visit to Costa Rica.

The proposals submitted by the FMLN and the FDR uphold the position that the dialogue between the FMLN and the FDR and the government "is a popular revolutionary victory and also a sign of hope." The report adds that "the Salvadoran people's yearning for peace can only be achieved by attacking the evils that have caused this war, that is, injustice and the lack of democracy. Peace is inseparable from justice and freedom."

It adds: "The causes that have caused our fronts to struggle through political and military means continue to prevail in Salvadoran society: The death squads have not disappeared, illegal arrests still persist, as does the practice of torture which has only taken on more sophisticated methods. The majority of Salvadorans continue to be excluded from sharing the wealth of the nation. We are a poor nation because a wealthy minority causes the misery of the majority of Salvadorans."

Other points included in this statement, which we will disclose today as an exclusive, touch on key issues of the present Salvadoran situation such as the deployment of a fifth of the population of the country to other parts of the country or to other regions or abroad, as well as "the inclusion of our country within U.S. geopolitical plans."

The report also alludes to the general state of war that prevails in the country, two parallel power structures, and the lack of a national political consensus. The report notes that in view of this, "there can be no easy solutions.... Our proposal to achieve a negotiated political solution to the national crisis is based on gradual achievements which are just, realistic, necessary, and in keeping with the maximum aspirations of our people. The stages of the political situation that we propose are from an objective point of view and in keeping with the specific realities of war, particularly the bitter polarization of Salvadoran society and the complex and deeply rooted situation of reciprocal mistrust."

The proposals that the FMLN and the FDR have submitted for negotiations are divided into three stages which follow textually.

Dialogue and Negotiation Phase

First Stage

Establishment of basic political conditions and of sovereignty needed for a negotiated solution:

A. THE CALLING OF A NATIONAL FORUM

Both parties commit themselves to call and organize "a national forum" that will allow all national political and social sectors to express their ideas and submit proposals aimed at solving the sociopolitical conflict in the country.

B. AGREEMENTS ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS

The Salvadoran Government will adopt specific measures aimed at dismantling the death squads and prosecuting those responsible for or involved in crimes against the people, particularly the following: 1. the assassination of Msgr Romero; 2. the assassination of comrade memebers of the FDR Executive Committee; 3. the assassination of the four U.S. nuns; 4. the assassination of the two U.S. advisers and the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation director; 5. the assassination of Mario Zamora Rivas; 6. the assassinatin of Melvi Rigoberto Orellana; 7. the assassination of the Dutch journalists.

The government will adopt verifiable measures to: 1. abolish torture; 2. end the kidnapping and disappearance of persons; 3. offer guarantees so that union and popular political organizations and political parties can carry out their activities.

It will repeal the state of siege and repressive decrees that undermine the interests of the people.

C. AGREEMENTS PERTAINING TO THE HUMANIZATION OF WAR

Both parties commit themselves to comply with the agreements of the Geneva Convention, particularly regarding the cessation of bombings of civilian areas; respecting the lives of those officers and troops who fall prisoner on both sides; respecting and offering proper treatment to those wounded who are evacuated; and respecting medical and paramedic personnel in both armies and their medical installations.

D. AGREEMENT TO CEASE U.S. MILITARY INTERFERENCE

The Salvadoran Government commits itself to guarantee the evacuation of all U.S. military advisers who are deployed in the country and to suspend the holding of all joint military maneuvers with U.S. troops or troops of any other nationality in the nation.

E. AGREEMENT TO CEASE PURCHASING ARMS

The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN-FDR commit themselves to cease immediately and completely the acquisition of arms, ammunition, and war materiel for El Salvador and to accept verifying international mechanisms on both parts.

F. AGREEMENTS PERTAINING TO ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

Both parties commit themselves to completely cease acts of economic sabotage as a contribution to the progress of the negotiations.

G. AGREEMENT OVER THE FULL OBSERVANCE OF THESE CONDITIONS

Both parties commit themselves to uphold that which has been agreed upon and to establish a reasonable mutually agreed observance period to verify and consolidate those basic conditions aimed at achieving a political solution.

Second Stage

End of hostilities and implementation of guaranteeing accords:

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT

An agreement should be reached on effective participation in the government by all social and political sectors involved in the negotiations, as an expression of a true national consensus. The following tasks are to be undertaken:

1. Faithful compliance with the agreements reached during the negotiations;

2. Restoration of national sovereignty and independence;

3. Termination of the interference by the U.S. Administration or by any other state in El Salvador's domestic affairs, in government decisionmaking, or in the direction of the Salvadoran Armed Forces;

4. Complete dismantling of the repressive apparatus, laying the foundations for a true democracy;

5. Satisfaction of the most immediate and urgent needs of the majorities, adopting the necessary measures to make the socioeconomic structural changes feasible;

6. Adoption of all the necessary measures to solve the current state of war.

B. ADOPTION OF A COMMONLY AGREED UPON ELECTORAL TIMETABLE

C. CEASE-FIRE ACCORD

1. A cease-fire will be agreed upon after the demarkation of the territory under the control of each party;

2. A bilateral commission made up of members of the two armies will be created to supervise and control the cease-fire.

D. RESETTLEMENT OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED AND REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES

The government and the FDR-FMLN will support and promote the actions that Salvadoran churches, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Red Cross Committee will undertake for the resettlement and return of fellow countrymen.

Third Stage

Institutional Democracy

A. COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT

A government of national consensus shall be installed in compliance with the agreement reached in the previous stage.

B. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

An agreement on the constitutional amendments that are necessary for a political solution shall be subjected to a national referendum.

C. ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

The Armed Forces shall be reorganized on the basis of the two armies.

D. CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS

The electoral timetable shall be compiled with through the call for general, authentic, and free elections with the participation of all political sectors in the nation.

This is the peace proposal that the FDR-FMLN offers to our people and to the international community as a contribution to the search for a solution to the nation's crisis and as a contribution to regional peace.

NICARAGUA

MDN ABANDONS MILITARY STRUGGLE, REELECTS ROBELO

PA211855 Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] San Jose, 21 Dec (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) has decided to abandon military action and devote itself exclusively to politics, MDN President Alfonso Robelo told AFP today.

The anti-Sandinist leader indicated that at an MDN general assembly held in San Jose on Wednesday it was also decided to propose to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) that it also abandon its military struggle. ARDE's military actions in southern Nicaragua are under the command of Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro.

"We believe that the fact we are part of ARDE's political and military alliance is possibly hindering our work," Robelo said, adding that on account of that alliance "many political leaders" in various countries refuse MDN support.

He was specifically referring to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who recently received anti-Sandinist leader Arturo Cruz, but not Robelo himself, because of the latter's links with ARDE.

MDN decided that if any of its followers wishes to continue the military struggle they can do it on an individual basis, but by doing so will be impeded from occupying positions of leadership within the organization. Robelo pointed out that the decision does not mean that the MDN is withdrawing its support for the armed struggle that groups such as the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the Sandino Revolutionary Front (FRS) are conducting against the Managua government.

The Nicaraguan leader, who is a former member of the government junta there, announced that after Christmas the MDN will propose to ARDE that they limit their alliance to the political arena. Robelo would not disclose further details on those negotiations, but did admit that he has spoken to Chamorro about the matter. Chamorro has command over several hundred rebels fighting against Sandinists in southern Nicaragua.

"Actually, we are better at political matters than at military ones," Robelo confessed, and commented that MDN's experiences in military actions have provided an "interesting experience and prepared many cadres."

At Wednesday's MDN assembly Alfonso Robelo was reelected president, Fabio Cadea was chosen vice president, Roberto Urroz secretary general, Alvaro Icaza, sergeant at arms, Carlos Abarcam, finance secretary, Jaime Vega, secretary for international relations, and Walter Balladares, press secretary.

RIVERA SAYS MISURASATA TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE

PA212010 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0014 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] San Jose, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Miskitos will continue fighting until they achieve their "true" autonomy. That statement was made in this capital today by Brooklyn Rivera, leader of Miskito, Sumu and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata].

Rivera affirmed that these people reject the autonomy offered by Sandinism because "it is neither legitimate nor serious" but is "a disguise, for export purposes, to hide the genocide committed against those people."

"The autonomy must come from the people" and to do that the Indians have their own plan, based on "the just right to manage their historic rights," said Brooklyn Rivera in an exclusive statement to ACAN-EFE. The leader of the "Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, and Creoles" predicted that "the Sandinists will fail again because the Indians do not accept the false autonomy offered to them as a gift."

"We do not want concessions, we want an elemental act of justice," to end our struggle and dedicate ourselves to living and working in peace, Rivera concluded.

LA PRENSA ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON CHAMORRO BARRIOS

PA211539 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Communique issued by LA PRENSA on 20 December; read by new LA PRENSA codirector Jaime Chamorro Cardenal -- recorded]

[Text] In view of the statements in San Jose, Costa Rica on 15 December 1984 by our codirector, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, the board of directors of the LA PRENSA Publishing House and the editorial council of the newspaper LA PRENSA have reached the following decisions:

We agree with his statement on censorship which, like him, we consider illegal, arbitrary, and oppressive due to the excessive amount of work that it imposes on those who direct and write LA PRENSA and due to the daily tension caused by its arbitrary and frequently disproportionate prohibitions. We support his charges and we will continue this struggle at the national and international level. In this sense, we filed a special writ of protection before the appeals court of the Third Region on 19 December 1984.

We understand Pedro Joaquin's attitude of remaining abroad as long as that unjust and arbitrary censorship suffered by LA PRENSA and other independent communications media is not lifted. We also express solidarity with the campaign that he has begun at the international level to denounce the lack of freedom of expression in Nicaragua and our newspaper's situation.

Nevertheless, the board of directors and the editorial council believe that the newspaper LA PRENSA has a mission to fulfill in the current circumstances as it did in similar circumstances in the past. That mission is to continue struggling for the complete reestablishment of freedom, for the functioning of democracy, and for Nicaragua to be a republic once again. Our martyred director struggled for these ideals that are our legacy.

The newspaper's mission as a bulwark of freedom and struggle for human rights and as an instrument of culture and objective information entails a deep commitment to the Nicaraguan people, who have always firmly supported us even in the worst circumstances. Therefore, we believe its directors and editors have the obligation to keep it alive and active as long as it is up to us.

Considering Pedro Joaquin's decision to remain outside Nicaragua as long as censorship continues and considering that the office of codirector legally demands that the person holding that office be physically present in the country and in agreement with Pedro Joaquin, the board of directors and the editorial council have decided to appoint Jaime Chamorro as director of the newspaper LA PRENSA.

Managua, 20 December 1984

[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Pablo Antonio Cuadra

KURKOTKIN VISIT CUT SHORT BY USTINOV'S DEATH

FL221556 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has received Marshal of the Soviet Union Semen Kurkotkin, deputy defense minister of the USSR, who is heading that sister nation's high-level delegation, which is visiting Cuba. Raul expressed to the visitor his profound grief and sincerest condolences on the occasion of the death of Dmitriy Ustinov, defense minister and marshal of the USSR.

Raul said Ustinov's death is a true loss for the party, Armed Forces, and people of the USSR, as well as for those of Cuba, especially members of the FAR.

The Soviet delegation headed by Marshal Kurkotkin departed Havana's Jose Marti International Airport to return to the Soviet Union. It was seen off by Gen Raul Castro.

R. CASTRO SEES OFF DELEGATION TO USTINOV RITES

FL221322 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and FAR minister, has seen off the delegation representing the party, government, and the FAR, which will attend the funeral in Moscow of Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Politburo and Soviet defense minister, who died Thursday. The Cuban delegation is presided over by Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, first vice minister of the FAR and hero of the Republic of Cuba.

Signs Condolence Book

FL220248 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] This afternoon, Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and FAR minister, signed the condolences book for the death of Dmitriy Ustinov. Raul, accompanied by the ambassador of the USSR in Cuba, Konstantin Katushev, paid posthumous homage to the dead leader.

Army Gen Raul Castro wrote the following moving words in the condolence book placed in the Embassy of the USSR: In the name of the FAR, we express our condolences to the CPSU, the Soviet Government, and the Armed Forces of the USSR for the loss of the marshal of the Soviet Union, our beloved friend and teacher, Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov.

Later, a group of officials headed by Chief of the General Staff and FAR first Vice Minister Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro signed the book expressing their condolences.

PACT ON HAVANA RECONSTRUCTION SIGNED WITH GDR

FL211752 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1312 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] An agreement has been signed between the capital cities of the GDR and Cuba for the purpose of encouraging the Havana reconstruction plan, begun by Fidel. The GDR was represented by Joachim Boettger, vice mayor of East Berlin, and Cuba by Maximo Andion, member of the Executive Committee of the People's Government in Havana. They stated that the agreement strengthens the friendship and solidarity between the two peoples.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST LEADER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL211510 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Secretary general of South Africa's Communist Party Moses Mahida has arrived in Havana at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba. After arriving, Mahida met with Jesus Montane, alternate Politburo member, at the Central Committee's offices. They discussed the complex situation existing in South Africa, particularly the struggle by South African patriots against the ignominious system of apartheid.

RODRIGUEZ ON ANGOLAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL, OTHER TOPICS

PM211314 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Dec 84 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, deputy chairman of the Council of State, by Jean-Pierre Clerc in Havana -- date not given]

[Text] Havana -- While the whole Cuban population is being strongly urged to increase its massive defense capability in face of possible hostile U.S. action, Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has just concluded with Washington the first agreement since 1977 negotiated between these two countries, which have been adversaries on every issue since 1959. It is a document aimed at regulating immigration by Cuban nationals to the United States. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, 71 years old, with a white beard and horn-rimmed spectacles, a communist for more than 50 years, sees no contradiction in this.

The Reagan administration has essentially constantly stepped up its threats to use force against Cuba since 1981, while pursuing an openly aggressive policy in Central America.

"This is what has forced us to make a considerable defense effort," Mr Rodriguez said. "In recent years we have doubled our military technical capabilities. In addition, we have undertaken to prepare all Cubans for the possibility of a national people's war. For instance, 500,000 men and women have enrolled in the militia. Then, with the exceptional help of all our friends in the socialist camp, we have been able to arm another 500,000. Finally, we had the idea of organizing the country at regional level by the creation of around 1,300 'defense zones,' with the participation of all the people, including women, children, and old people. Everybody in Cuba now knows what he must do and where he must go in the event of an all-out attack, air raid warning, sea blockade, and so forth."

Thus, according to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, in the event of an enemy attack the losses would number "hundreds of thousands" and the political price to be paid by the enemy would be "intolerable."

But the avowed objective is, of course, to prepare for war in order to have peace: "We wanted to be strong once and for all."

The Cuban deputy chairman also said that all the country's leaders, especially Fidel Castro, have also shown their desire to negotiate with the United States on many occasions. They therefore pay close attention to all "signals" from Washington. For instance, at the end of 1983 and beginning of 1984, Mr Rodriguez observed that Mr Reagan's tone was less aggressive -- probably for "election purposes."

According to our interlocutor, in mid-1983 Cuba very quickly showed that it was prepared to reply to an American request suggesting the start of negotiations on immigration. Only the "arrogant" U.S. attitude and the Cubans' desire to ensure that Mr Reagan did not draw any electoral benefit from it delayed the dialogue.

(There were two short negotiating sessions in July and August, without result, before they succeeded in really paving the way for dialogue in New York from 28 November to 5 December, 2 weeks after Mr Reagan's election).

Mr. Rodriquez hurriedly added that the fact that there could be agreement on some practical emigration problems does not mean that "we are going to slow down our military preparation," because "the situation remains dangerous, at least in Central America."

With regard to Angola, we asked Mr. Rodriquez why the Cubans recently began to accept the possibility of a gradual withdrawal of their troops, wihch have been in that country in large numbers since 1975.

"First," the deputy chairman said, "we never envisaged a permanent military presence there. Our presence in Angola has always been linked to Luanda's wishes and needs." This fact had already been clearly expressed, he said, "in a statment by Isidoro Malmierca and Paulo Jorge, the two foreign ministers, in February 1982 -- as were the objective of Namibian independence and an end to attacks on Mr. Dos Santos' government by South Africa and the UNITA rebels."

[Clerc] Is it true that nearly 2,000 Cubans have died in 9 years?

[Rodriquez] I have no figures. It would be premature to give any. But even 200, 20, 2 deaths or 1 Cuban death would be an irreparable loss," Mr Rodriquez replied.

The deputy chairman condemned the "arrogance" of South Africa's reply to the Angolan proposals for a gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops (Mr Dos Santos, in a letter sent to the UN secretary general in mid-November, envisaged the withdrawal north of the 13th Parallel of "only" the 20,000 Cubans at present in the south of the country, in the 3 years following the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibian independence, with the Security Council's aid. Pretoria, however, intends to secure the withdrawal of all Cubans from Angola within 3 months after the implementation of Resolution 435).

Relations With the Socialist Camp

On the other hand, Carlos Rafael Rodriquez admits that the United States, which is acting as mediator in the region with its assistant secretary of state for African affairs, "is making efforts, is active, and is having talks with Angola." Our interlocutor added: "It can influence South Africa." Thus, in his view, "the process will continue," At all events, according to him, "Namibia's independence is now inevitable" in the "not too distant future."

Cuba's economic relations with the Soviet Union [sentence as published]. In a major speech delivered on 4 December, Fidel Castro clearly pledged that his country would scrupulously fulfill its export obligations to the Eastern bloc countries. Is this, we asked, because Havana has not always honored its contracts with the Soviet bloc in the past?

"I will remind you," he replied, "that Fidel also strongly emphasized the need for Cuba to export more to Western Europe, in order to pay its debt. Our country makes it a point of honor to keep its promises. As for our relations with socialist Europe, we think that they can serve as a model for a world in which a new economic order would reign, without unequal relations between the developing countries and the capitalist nations. We have always kept our promises to everybody, including the Soviet Union. Of course, there have been some year-long delays because of temporary situations, for instance, a recent sugarcane disease, rust. In all, over the last 5-year period we have constantly increased our supplies to the Eastern bloc, although we have been unable to honor our export plans for the most important products.

For instance, in 1983 there was a 400,000-metric ton shortfall in the total sugarcane supply of 3.2 million metric tons for which the Soviet Union had made provision. These 400,000 metric tons were sold to capitalist countries. This is a serious matter for us. This is why Fidel Castro reiterated some vital requirements. In exchange we will have to export their products to the West instead."

Will this "readjustment," to use Carlos Rafael Rodriguez's term, have repercussions on overall economic forecasts? "With sugar at 4 U.S. cents a pound, a slump in nickel, and low citrus prices, it will be impossible to continue this year's growth rate in 1985" (the authorities announced a 7-9-percent increase in the "gross social product"). "We will have to revise our aspirations. But we nevertheless forecast investments worth 1 billion pesos in 1985. That's a lot for a small country."

Will the elections be affected? Mr Rodriguez says out: "Nothing disastrous will happen. It will be a responsible readjustment, which will force us to work harder, to amend our objectives, and to do more with fewer resources."

[Clerc] How will you go about it?

[Rodriguez] By means of a more rational utilization of our energy resources. There will also have to be more efficiency. We know we have major shortcomings in this field, even though we have done a great deal, much more than the developing countries, in health and education, for instance.

[Clerc] What stage has been reached in the renegotiation of Cuba's substantial debt to Moscow?

[Rodriguez] It has been settled. That happened during the late October visit to Cuba by Mr Tikhonov, who came to Havana for the 39th CEMA Council session. Our repayments have been deferred until 1990.

[Clerc] How much does the debt amount to?

[Rodriguez] The figures are strategic.

Though the Cuban vice president laughed, Western experts generally suggest a minimum figure of $7.5 billion.

C.R. RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

FL221438 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Speaking at the ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Foreign Ministry, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, noted the record of the revolutionary organization during its first quarter-century of existence.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez reiterated points made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro about Cuba's policy of peace and the obligation we all have to avoid a nuclear holocaust. He said: We will do whatever is necessary to obtain peace, with firmness and with all the people's willingness to fight if necessary.

Discussing the late [Foreign Minister] Raul Roa's activity in the Foreign Ministry, Carlos Rafael said Roa symbolizes the forces that have worked in this ministry to glorify our country overseas. Rodriguez then named all who died fulfilling their duty overseas.

Also attending the ceremony were Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, member of the Politburo and interior minister; Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo and chief of General Department of Foreign Relations of the Central Committee; other party leaders, government officials, and Raul Roa's widow Ana Kouri.

UNESCO OFFICIAL CRITICIZES U.S. WITHDRAWAL

PA211726 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Vicentina Antuna, chairman of the Cuban National UNESCO Commission, said in Havana that the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO is another example of that government's arrogance. Vicentina Antuna said that the United States intends to dominate the world through the imposition of its interests and criteria in the international organizations.

Antuna emphasized that the U.S. position, supported by the UK, provoked a world rejection because the decision is an attack to the UNESCO's universal purpose. She added that in the future, UNESCO's budget will suffer a drastic cut because the United States provides nearly one-fourth of the entity's funds. This will mostly affect the underdeveloped nations, where most of the organization's projects are carried out.

U.S. POSITION ON GENEVA ARMS TALKS QUESTIONED

PA212147 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Report by Alberto Rabilotta, PRELA correspondent in Montreal -- recorded]

[Text] A month before the talks between the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers in Geneva on the control of weapons and demilitarization, the Reagan administration has taken specific measures toward the militarization of space. Whatever benefit of the doubt which might be granted to President Reagan regarding his political willingness to negotiate agreements with the Soviet Union aimed at stopping the rash nuclear arms buildup seems to be short-lived. That is what the specific evidence seems to indicate. What is some of this evidence?

First, the selection of the team that will accompany Secretary of State George Shultz to Geneva includes well-known opponents to any kind of agreement with the Soviet Union. In addition, there have been no changes in the key personnel in Washington who draft and carry out the policy regarding arms control and demilitarization. All these posts are in the hands of people who have openly opposed these goals.

Second, there prevails a dominant tendency at the White House of not abandoning the implementation of the policy which seeks to take the rash arms buildup into outer space, the policy known as "Star Wars." The Pentagon's announcement that the space shuttle will carry out a secret military mission on 23 January is added to the granting of the first 10 contracts for an antimissile space system.

Third, while Washington was talking about a thawing and better climate to start talks with the Soviet Union, the Pentagon carried out war maneuvers in Japanese waters 1 week ago, off strategic Soviet zones in Vladivostok. These maneuvers were described by Japanese officials as worrisome; a Reagan administration official described them as likely to produce diplomatic repercussions.

All these facts, only some of which have been mentioned, seemingly disprove President Reagan's alleged political willingness, which was discussed during and after the electoral campaign, to reach agreements with the Soviet Union to stop the rash nuclear arms buildup and advocate demilitarization.

Furthermore, it could be said, without miscontruing the truth, that a superficial analysis proves that some of these actions represent veritable provocations. For example, the space shuttle's secret military mission, the first of a series which has been planned, is aimed at launching military satellites in a stationary orbit over the Soviet Union and spur Soviet reactions and capabilities regarding space vigilance.

In addition, the war maneuvers off Vladivostok had this and other strategic objectives and included the use of two aircraft carriers and several escort ships. The Canadian and U.S. news media have commented appropriately that the ball is now in the U.S. court, and Ronald Reagan must prove if he wants to play and what type of rules he will respect.

POLITBURO MEMBER PRESIDES OVER CDR MEETING

FL220230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Armando Acosta Cordero, alternate member of the Politburo and national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], presided over the fourth vigilance meeting in the capital. CDR vigilance coordinators, deputy coordinators, and secretaries participated in the meeting as did leaders of the National Revolutionary Police and [words indistinct] of the municipalities of Havana City Province.

Jose Antonio Gell Noa, CDR coordinator of Havana City Province, spoke of the need to continue to strengthen revolutionary vigilance and make it more exacting and more efficient.

JAMAICA

PNP REJECTS COMMUNIST WPJ'S ALLIANCE EFFORTS

FL211408 Bridgetown CANA in English 2139 GMT 20 Dec 84

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 19, CANA -- Moves by the small communist movement here to rope the main political opposition into a concerted mass-based assault on the capitalist policies of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) appear to have been dashed. The left-of-centre People's National Party (PNP) of ex-Prime Minister Michael Manley, which recent opinion polls indicate is at this time of local economic hardship even more popular now than the JLP, has said it is simply not interested in any such alliance.

Behind the concept of a united fight against Prime Minister Edward Seaga's JLP programmes, is local academic and Marxist ideologue Dr Trevor Munroe, general secretary of the communist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ).

Using the harsh economic conditions here as a rallying point to build up a left-led national consensus against Seaga and his International Monetary Fund (IMF) inspired economic policies appeared to have been a major policy decision of the WPJ's third congress here last weekend. The need to lessen differences between people's organisations was a central theme of a speech and report of the proceedings by Munroe. The idea, it seemed, would have been to isolate Seaga politically, even within his own JLP.

Massive rises in the cost of living due to devaluation of the local currency, and large scale public sector layoffs, both linked to government's 150-million dollar (U.S.) loan programme with the Washington-based financial institution, are but two of the widely unpopular realities of life here recently.

Munroe, apparently with the backing of the congress, called for a broad front of all major political parties and mass organisations to fight for less onerous economic demands from the IMF. This national council, Munroe said, apart from the parties, would include trade unions, businessmen's groups, churches, youth, women, farmers bodies and other similar organisations. Its purpose would be to unite the nation to protest the stringent terms under which Jamaica maintains the IMF standby agreement.

Munroe envisaged not only the WPJ and the PNP taking part, but, inexplicably, the JLP itself, though he said this council could not be led by Seaga, since he is a puppet of imperialism who does everything the IMF tells him.

Manley's party at present does not have a seat in Parliament having boycotted elections a year ago because they were called on an outdated voters register. But opinion polls here indicate that Seaga's economic programmes have sapped the popularity of his government and the PNP would win an election called now or in the near future.

In the most recent survey conducted in Septmeber by Jamaica's leading pollster Professor Carl Stone, the PNP commanded 38 per cent support to the JLP's 26 per cent, with a large 38 per cent of the electorate uncommitted. The WPJ's share was a tiny two per cent.

This situation clearly did not elude the WPJ. Munroe announced that the congress had mandated the WPJ Central Committee to seek to reduce tensions with the socialist PNP in order to strengthen the national movement. This congress has charged us to make certain that in strengthening the grass roots...(we) reduce the differences between the progressive organisations, between the WPJ and the PNP, Munroe declared.

Relations between the parties chilled after the PNP's crushing defeat by the JLP in the October 1980 general elections here. Many top PNP officials blamed the depth of the defeat on the friendship with the WPJ and perceptions that their party was also communist. In its image-building, the PNP has also purged its left wing from key positions within the party. And in 1981 PNP leader Michael Manley told journalists that his party would deal resolutely with all parties competing for state power here, including the WPJ.

It is in the same vein that the PNP had reacted to the latest overtures from the communists. The PNP repeats that it will not be involved in any political alliance with any other party which seeks state power in Jamaica, PNP General Secretary Dr Paul Robertson responded to the news reports of Munroe's remarks. Additionally, said Robertson, the PNP's position on the IMF was very clear: The party continued to believe that the strategies were inappropriate for the problems of Third World economies, and it had both in and out of government struggled for reform of the fund. In fact, the PNP had in 1980 broken negotiations with the fund after the IMF had demanded it cut 10,000 public sector jobs in order to gain a stand-by credit agreement.

However, the WPJ feels that the PNP is presently taking too moderate a line against the government and the deteriorating living standards of Jamaicans.

For attempting to appear nice and moderate Munroe said, the PNP had been kicked in the teeth, firstly by last December's election and then by this month's statement in Parliament in which both the PNP and the WPJ were accused by national security minister, Winston Spaulding of being behind a wave of crime and violence here. We say to our friends in the PNP that being moderate is not going to save you from Seaga and the ruling class, the WPJ general secretary declared. We say to our friends stop being moderate, and join the people of Jamaica in resisting the JLP and Seaga.

PANAMA

CARDOZE COMMENTS ON U.S. RELATIONS, TREATY

PA230341 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega today said that he had talked with various government officials in Washington regarding bilateral relations between Panama and the United States. Cardoze said that Panama will take full advantage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which will include certain products and services that will generate employment.

He said that while in the United States he talked about the need to eliminate Law 96-70 and fully comply with the Canal treaties. He said that the two countries agree on the need to keep the interocean waterway open and fully operational. Foreign Minister Cardoze added that the renegotiation of our external debt requires a broad and honest debate. He also said that the United States has reiterated its decided support for the Contadora Group, which will meet on 8 January in Panama City to discuss the proposed modifications to the original document.

PERU

ECONOMY MINISTER SUBMITS 'UNEXPECTED' RESIGNATION

PY212233 Paris AFP in Spanish 1905 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Lima, 21 Dec (AFP) — Luis Percovich Roca, prime minister and foreign minister of Peru, has announced that Economy Minister Jose Benavides, Justice Minister Max Arias Schreiber, and National Communications System (Sinacom) Director Miguel Angel Alva Orlandini resigned their posts this afternoon.

This is the first partial reshuffle since its installation on 13 October of the cabinet led by Luis Percovich Roca, a deputy for the ruling Popular Action [AP] Party. At that time, Percovich took office along with seven new ministers upon the resignation of AP Senator Sandro Mariategui.

While the resignations of the Sinacom chief and of the justice minister had been announced earlier, the resignation of the economy minister was unexpected.

The resignation of Sinacom chief Miguel Angel Alva Orlandini had also been announced earlier by President Belauden himself during his recent meeting with presidential candidates. Miguel Angel Alva Orlandini is a brother of Javier Alva Orlandini, second vice president of the Republic and presidential candidate for the ruling AP Party. At the end of a cabinet meeting, Percovich expressed his gratitude to the resigning ministers for their services to the nation but did not announce who will replace them.